Unused Airstrips in Tamil Nadu

2589. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that airports/airstrips of Tuticorin, Neyvelli and Vellore in Tamil Nadu are in disuse;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from private airlines for using these airports/airstrips; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The airports at Tuticorin and Vellore belong to Airports Authority of India (AAI). Scheduled airlines are operating through Tuticorin airport and general aviation activities take place at Vellore airport. The airstrip at Neyvelli is a private airstrip which belongs to Neyvelli Lignite Corporation (NLC).

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the answer at (a) and (b) above.

Performance of Indian

2590. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to a number of low cost private airlines, the national carrier Indian has suffered financially and otherwise;

(b) if so, the details of losses thereof arising from low revenue income, grounding of aircraft, occupancy of bay areas and poaching of pilots;

(c) the details of future road map for the Indian being chalked out *vis-a-vis* the private airlines;

(d) whether the Indian will offload the burden of running in the uneconomic routes to private airlines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) Marketing initiatives/new promotional schemes like 'i-mint', 'Spot Fares', 'Double Dollar Discount', 'Executive Class Return Fare' 'Class Apart